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For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Advises Members of Agua Negra Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) to Boil Water

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau has advised the Agua Negra Mutal Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) to issue a “boil water order” for its consumers.

The Agua Negra MDWCA, located five miles northwest Mora on Highway 518, was put on a “boil water order” on May 30 due to bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli*. NMED has required that the system owner/operator notify all customers served by that system. The system serves approximately 300 consumers in Mora County.

Customers of the Agua Negra water system are advised to boil their water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, and dishwashing.

The presence of *E. coli* in water indicates that the water may have been in contact with sewage or animal wastes, and could contain disease-causing organisms. Most strains of *E. coli* are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals. However, a positive test for *E. coli* in the drinking water supply may indicate the presence of dangerous strains of *E. coli* or other disease-causing organisms, which are sometimes found in sewage. These types of organisms may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, even death. Children, the elderly, and immunocompromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

The water system will be thoroughly disinfected. In addition, the Drinking Water Bureau will continue to assist to identify the source of the problem.

The Department of Health will remain on alert for any health effects linked to this water quality issue. Consumers of the water system are asked to call (505) 476-3572, if they have any water-related health concerns.

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